

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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 TITLE: CARGO DECK AND A METHOD FOR ASSEMBLING SAID DECK

Preliminary Amendment: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck for a cargo compartment of an aircraft with an outer skin, said cargo deck being adapted to receive loads and comprising in the cargo compartment of an aircraft, characterized in that the cargo deck is composed of a plurality of floor modules (20), which are fixed within the cargo compartment (9) to form the and define said cargo deck, and a plurality of such that attached to the outer skin (12) are longitudinal beams (35) attached to said outer skin on which the said floor modules are (20) can be mounted.

2. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to Claim 1, wherein characterized in that a plurality of ribs (11) are fixed to said the outer skin (12), and said the longitudinal beams (35) are fixed to said these ribs.

3. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to Claim 1, wherein said or 2, characterized in that the longitudinal beams (35) are comprised made of a material, that has a coefficient of the thermal expansion eefficient of which corresponds substantially to that of said the outer skin (12).

4. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of said one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the longitudinal beams (35) and/or

said ribs ~~(11)~~ comprise at least one of bores, rapid-closure elements and ~~or~~ similar fixation devices ~~(36, 36')~~ for attachment of the floor modules thereto ~~(20)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ floor modules ~~(20)~~ are attached to said ~~the~~ longitudinal beams ~~(35)~~ in such a way that substantially no forces acting in a longitudinal direction of said ~~the~~ aircraft can be transferred from said ~~the~~ floor modules ~~(20)~~ into said ~~the~~ longitudinal beams ~~(35)~~.
6. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according Claim 1, wherein ~~to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ a pair of said longitudinal beams ~~(35)~~ is provided ~~to be connected to the~~ said floor modules ~~(20)~~.
7. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ floor modules each ~~(20)~~ comprise at least one transverse beams ~~(30)~~ ~~for~~ connecting said ~~the~~ floor modules ~~(20)~~ to said ~~the~~ longitudinal beams ~~(35)~~.
8. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to Claim 2, wherein said ~~6, characterized in that the~~ floor modules ~~(20)~~ comprise supporting feet ~~(31, 32)~~ ~~for connection connected to~~ said ~~the~~ ribs ~~(11)~~.
9. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to Claim 4, wherein at least one of said ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ ribs ~~(11)~~ ~~for fixation of the modules (20) and/or the~~ said longitudinal beams ~~(35)~~ comprise fixation elements that are attached to one of said ~~either to the~~ ribs in a zone between said ~~the~~ outer skin ~~(12)~~ and an edge region of the ribs ~~(11)~~ that is directed into the cargo compartment ~~(9)~~, and said ~~or are~~

~~attached without bores to the edge region of the~~ said ribs that do not define bores.

10. (Currently Amended) Cargo deck according to Claim 1, wherein said one of the preceding claims, ~~characterized in that the modules (20)~~ are decoupled from one another with respect to forces acting in the long direction of the aircraft.
11. (Currently Amended) Method of installing a cargo deck ~~that consists of floor modules in an aircraft that is composed of multiple barrel-shaped fuselage sections of an outer skin, comprising at least the steps of~~
 - a) ~~production of~~ providing a plurality of floor modules;
 - b) ~~production of~~ providing a plurality of longitudinal beams each with a means for, ~~including the provision of bores, rapid closure elements or similar fixation devices for~~ attaching said the floor modules to the longitudinal beams;
 - c) ~~fixation of~~ fixing said sections of the longitudinal beams within said the fuselage sections of said aircraft;
 - d) ~~insertion of the~~ inserting said floor modules into said the fuselage sections, and attaching them to said the longitudinal beams.
12. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 11, wherein said ~~the~~ longitudinal beams each have a length no greater than that of said ~~the~~ fuselage section within which it is located ~~module~~.
13. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 11, wherein said transverse beams comprise feet and a plurality of ribs are fixed to said outer skin, and

~~comprising the additional steps of one of the claims 11 or 12, wherein after the step d), in a step~~

e) fixing said feet of said transverse beams ~~are fixed~~ to said ribs.

14. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 13, ~~comprising the additional steps of one of the claims 11-13, wherein after the step e)~~ providing wall and ceiling lining elements, pushing same ~~are pushed~~ into said the fuselage sections and fixing same ~~fixed~~ in position therein.

15. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 11 ~~one of the claims 11-14~~, wherein after assembly of said the fuselage sections, each of said floor modules is ~~are~~ loaded into said aircraft through a cargo-compartment door, transported to its ~~their associated~~ destination sites, and fixed in position ~~there~~.

16. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 11 ~~one of the claims 11-15~~, wherein prior to the step d) said the floor modules are provided with conductor means through which at least one of ~~sections for~~ fluids, ~~or~~ electrical current, and an electrical ~~or with channels through which~~ leads can pass, and said conductor means ~~or with similar installation devices, and the installation devices~~ are connected to one another after the step c).

17. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 13, wherein at least one of parts of floor panels, ball mats and ~~or~~ similar deck sections for said floor of the modules are fixed to said floor ~~the~~ modules after the step e).